



Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

Advanced Systems & Concepts

SUCCESS STORY

60 Minutes News Program Features the Active Denial System ACTD



The Active Denial System

The non-lethality and effectiveness of the Active Denial System (ADS) ACTD was recently featured in a segment on CBS' *60 Minutes* news program.

The program showed the HMMWV-mounted ADS, with CBS reporter David Martin describing how it works. When the target individual is engaged, "It's that flat-dish antenna, which shoots out a 100,000-watt beam at the speed of light, hitting anything in its path with an intense blast of heat," Martin said.

The feature showed ADS engaging volunteer personnel simulating a protest about half a mile away. "The first shot hits like an invisible punch," Martin said. "The protestors regroup, and he fires again, and again. Finally, they have had enough. The ray gun drives them away with no harm done."

Martin also elaborated on the human effects: "It does penetrate the body, but just barely ...," about 1/64 of an inch where nerve endings in the skin are located. "You have to feel the ray gun to believe it, and there is only one way to do that." The feature then showed Martin literally taking the heat from ADS. "To me, it felt like scalding water. What makes this a weapon like no other," said a grimacing Martin taking another blast on camera, "is that it makes you instantly stop whatever you're doing. But, the second that you get out of the beam the pain vanishes." Martin also said, "As long as it's been used properly, there is no harm to your body."

The system can help determine the intent of those targeted. "The impulse to run the other way is so strong, that anyone who keeps coming has to be considered a threat," Martin said.

The *60 Minutes* segment also showed ADS' applicability to dealing with crowd situations in places like Iraq, the recent protests at the U.S. Embassy in Serbia, and riots facing domestic law enforcement. The ADS is transitioning to a program of record within the Air Force and it is scheduled to deploy to Iraq this summer. The *60 Minutes* feature can be seen at www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/02/29/60minutes/main3891865.shtml .

For more information on the AC/JCTD program, visit its website at www.acq.osd.mil/jctd/ .